

*After Shakespear*

THE  
CRIES of BLOOD,

OR  
Juryman's Monitor.

★  
BEING  
An Authentic and Faithful Narrative  
OF THE  
LIVES and Melancholy DEATHS

Of several unhappy Persons, who have been  
Tried, Convicted, and Executed, for Robberies  
and Murders, of which they were intirely  
Innocent.

TOGETHER  
With a brief Relation of the Means in which the  
said Crimes were discovered, after the Deaths of the  
several Unfortunate Persons herein related.

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Thou shalt not bear false Witness against thy Neighbour.  
DECALOGUE.

——— If good men  
Be singled out to bleed, and bear the scourge,  
What is reward? and what is punishment?  
But who shall dare to tax eternal justice!

DRYDEN.

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L O N D O N.  
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THE BRITISH MUSEUM

OF THE HISTORY OF MAN

AND OF THE CIVILIZATION OF THE PAST

OF THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

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## INTRODUCTION.

**C**APITAL punishments in the body politic may be properly compared to the amputations in the natural body. As in the cases of a gangrene or mortification of the latter, it is sometimes necessary to lop off a limb for the reason assigned by the Latin poet,

—Immedicabile vulnus

*Ense recidendum nisi pars sinceror trahatur.*

*Ov. Metamorph.*

It has in like manner been found expedient in the body politic, to cut off those who are incorrigible in wickedness, from that earth of which they are the torment and bane.

But as surgeons cannot be too cautious in making an amputation, so judges and magistrates cannot be too tender and diffident in inflicting capital punishments upon their fellow creatures, as it is a maxim generally admitted by all moralists, that it is better that the guilty should escape than the innocent suffer undeservedly. To enforce this truth, the present collection is offered to the public, it will appear herein from a variety of striking examples and complicated cases, that to decide in a capital cause, is a matter of the highest difficulty and importance, as many persons have been capitally convicted, and suffer'd death, for crimes of which, it afterwards appeared to a demonstration, that they never were guilty. Public examples should undoubtedly be made in a state as those,  
who

who are not to be influenced and excited to virtue by precept, may however be deterred from guilt by example and laws, which may be properly considered, as the conscience of the public, and when made, should be strictly executed; but in the execution of them the utmost care and circumspection is necessary; as innocence has been often involved in the punishment of guilt, and some criminal causes are so very complicated and intricate, that jurymen can scarce ever be sure that they are not mistaken.

From the many extraordinary examples here offered to the public, it will appear how just that divine precept of our Saviour is, Judge not, and how well worthy of the attention of all concerned in the administration of justice. I would therefore earnestly recommend this collection to the perusal of all lawyers, as well as of all those, who are call'd upon to serve upon juries; as human nature is too prone to believe the worst, and it has appear'd from too many examples, that there is a sort of collective cruelty in a body of men, though none of the individuals of which it is compos'd may be naturally of a sanguinary disposition. It has been observed to the honour of our country, that capital punishments are milder in England than in any other kingdom, and in inflicting even these, the utmost care should be taken not to violate that justice, which laws were establish'd to support. In fine laws suppose men to be innocent and must owe their whole respect and influence to the public persuasion, that they never prove destructive except to the guilty.





T H E  
Cries of B L O O D.

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A true and perfect account of the examination, confession, tryal, condemnation, and execution of Joan Perry and her two Sons, John and Richard Perry, for the *supposed* Murder of William Harrison, Gent. being a more remarkable occurrence than any that that has happened in the *memory of man*.

Also Mr. Harrison's own account how he was convey'd to Turkey, and there made a slave above two years, &c.

U P O N Thursday the 16th day of August, 1660, William Harrison, steward to the Lady viscountess Campden, at Campden, in Gloucestershire, being about seventy years of age walked from Campden, aforesaid, to Charringworth, about two miles from thence, to receive his lady's Rent; and not returning so early as formerly, his Wife Mrs. Harrison between eight and Nine of the clock that evening, sent her servant, John Perry, to meet his master on the Way from Charringworth: but neither Mr. Harrison



Harrison, nor his servant, John Perry, returning that night, the next morning early Edward Harrison (William's son) went towards Charringworth, to enquire after his father ; when on the way, meeting Perry coming from thence, and being inform'd by him he was not there, they went together to Ebrington, a village between Charringworth and Campden, where they were told by one Daniel, that Mr. Harrison called at his house in the evening before, in his return from Charringworth, but stay'd not, they then went to Paxford, about a half mile from thence, where hearing nothing of Mr. Harrison they returned towards Campden ; and on the way, hearing of a hat, a band, and comb, taken up in the high way (between Ebrington and Campden by a poor woman, then leasing in the field, they sought her ought, with whom they found the hat, band, and comb, which they knew to be Mr. Harrison's ; and being brought by the woman to the place where she found the same (in the highway, between Ebrington and Campden, near unto a great Furze-brake) they there searched for Mr. Harrison, supposing he had been murdered, the hat and comb being hacked and cut, and the band bloody ; but nothing more could be there found. The news hereof coming to Campden, so alarmed the town, that men, women and children hasted thence in multitudes to search for Mr. Harrison's supposed dead body, but all in vain.

Mrs. Harrison's fears for her husband being great, were now much encreas'd ; and having sent her servant Perry (the evening before) to meet his master, and he not returning that night, caused

caus'd a suspicion that he had robb'd and murder'd him ; and thereupon the said Perry was the next day brought before a justice of peace ; by whom being examined concerning his master's absence, and his own staying out the night he went to meet him, gave this account of himself.

That his mistress sending him to meet his master, between eight and nine o'clock in the evening, he went down Campden field, towards Charringworth, about a land's length, where meeting one William Reed of Campden, he acquainted him with his errand, and further told him, that it growing dark, he was afraid to go forwards, and would therefore return and fetch his young master's horse, and return with him : he did go to Mr. Harrison's court-gate, where they parted, and he staid still : one Pierce coming by he went again with him about a bow's-shoot into the fields, and returned with him likewise to his master's gate, where they also parted ; and then, he the said John Perry saith, he went into his master's hen-roost where he lay about an hour, but slept not : and when the clock struck twelve, rose and went towards Charringworth, till (a great mist arising he lost his way, and so lay the rest of the night under a Hedge ; and at day-break, on Friday morning, went to Charringworth, where he enquired for his master of one Edward Plaisterer, who told him he had been with him the afternoon before, and received twenty-three pounds of him, but staid not long with him.

He then went to William Curtis of the same town, who likewise told him, he heard his master was at his house the day before but being not at home, did not see him : after which, he

return'd homewards, (it being about five of the Clock in the morning) when on the way he met his master's son, with whom he went to Ebrington and Paxford, &c. as hath been related.

Reed, Pierce, Plaisterer, and Curtis being examined, affirmed what Perry had said concerning them to be true.

Perry being then ask'd by the Justice of the peace, how he, who was afraid to go to Charingworth at nine a-clock, became so bold as to go thither at twelve? Answered, that at nine of the clock it was dark, but at twelve the moon shone.

Being further asked, why returning twice home, after h's mistress had sent him to meet his master, and staying till twelve a-clock, he went not into the house, to know whether his master were come home, before he went a third time, at that time of night, to look after him; answered, that he knew his master was not come home, because he saw a light in his chamber-window, which never used to be there so late when he was at home.

Yet notwithstanding this, that Perry had said for his staying forth that night, it was not thought fit to discharge him till further enquiry were made after Mr. Harrison, and accordingly he continued in custody at Campden, sometimes in an Inn there, and sometimes in the common Prison, from Saturday August the 18th, to the Friday following; during which time he was again examined at Campden, by the aforesaid justice of peace, but confessed nothing more than before; nor at that time could any further discovery be made what was became of Mr. Harrison; but  
it



it hath been said, that during his restraint at Campden, he told some (who prest him to confess what he knew concerning his master) that a tinker had killed him ; and to others, he and a gentleman's servant of the neighbourhood had robbed and murther'd, him ; and others again he told, that he was murthered, and hid in a bean-rick at Campden where search was (in vain) made for him.

At length he gave out, that were he again carry'd before the justice, he would discover that to him, he would discover no-body else : And thereupon he was (Friday August the 24th) again brought before the justice of peace, who first examin'd him, and asking him whether he would yet confess what was become of his master, he answered, He was murthered but not by him. The Justice of Peace then telling him, that if he knew him to be murther'd, he knew likewise by whom he was ; so he acknowledged he did ; and being urged to confess what he knew concerning it, affirmed that it was his mother and his brother that had murthered his master. The justice of peace then advised him to consider what he said, telling him, that he feared he might be guilty of his master's death and that he should not draw more innocent blood upon his head ; for what he now charged his mother and brother with, might cost them their lives ; but he affirming he spoke nothing but the truth, and that if he were immediately to die, he would justify it ; The Justice desired him to declare how and when they did it.

He then told him, that his mother and his brother had been at him ever since he came into his master's service to help them to money, telling

ling him how poor they were; and that it was in his power to relieve them, by giving them notice when his master went to receive his lady's rents, for they would way-lay and rob him; and further said, that upon the Thursday morning his master went to Charringworth, going of an errand into the town, he met his brother in the street, whom he then told whither his master was going, and if he way-laid him, he might have his money: and further said, that in the evening his mistress sent him to meet his master, he met his brother in the street, before his master's gate, going (as he said) to meet his master; and so they went together to the church yard, about a stone's throw from Mr. Harrison's gate, where they parted, he going the footway, cross the church-yard, and his brother keeping the great road, round the church, but in the highway, beyond the church, met again, and so went together the way leading to Charringworth till they came to a gate about a bow's shoot from Campden-church, that goes into a ground of the lady Campden's, called the Conygree which, to those who have a key to go through the garden is the next way from that place to Mr. Harrison's house; when they came near unto that gate, he the said John Perry, saith he told his brother, he did believe his master was just gone into the Conygree, (for it was then so dark they could not discern any Man so as to know him) but perceiving one to goe into that ground, and knowing there was no way but for those who had a key, thro' the garden's concluded it was his master: and so told his brother, if he followed him he might have his money; and he, in the mean time,

time, would walk a turn in the fields, which accordingly he did ; and then following his brother about the middle of the Conygree, found his master on the ground, his brother upon him, and his mother standing by ; and being asked whether his master were then dead, answered No ; for that after he came to them, his master cry'd, " Ah rogues, will you kill me : " at which he told his brother he hoped he would not kill his master ; who reply'd, " peace, peace, you're a fool," and so strangled him ; which having done he took a bag of money out of his pocket, and threw it into his mother's lap ; and then he and his brother carried his master's dead body into the garden adjoining to the Conygree, where they consulted what to do with it ; and at length agreed to throw it into the great sink, by Wallington's mill, behind the garden ; but said, his mother and brother bad him go up to the court (next the house) to hearken whether anyone was stirring, and they would throw the body into the sink : and being ask'd whether it were there, he said, he knew not, for that he left it in the garden ; but his mother and brother said they would throw it there ; and if it were not there he knew not where it was ; for that he return'd no more to them, but went to the court-gate, which goes into the town, where he met with John Pierce, with whom he went into the field, and again return'd with him to his masters gate ; after which, he went into the hen roost, where he lay till twelve of the clock that night, but slept not ; and having (when he came from his mother and brother) brought with him his master's hat-band, and comb, which he laid in the hen-roost

he



he carried the said hat-band, and comb, and threw them (after he had given them three or four cuts with his knife in the highway, where they were after found ; and being ask'd what he intended by so doing ? said, he did it that it might be believed his master had been there robbed and murdered ; and having thus dispos'd of his hat-band, and comb, he went towards Charringworth, &c. as hath been related.

Upon this confession and accusation, the justice of peace gave orders for the apprehending of Joan and Richard Perry, the mother and brother of John Perry, and for searching the sink where Mr. Harrison's body was said to be thrown ; which was accordingly done, but nothing of him could be there found : the fish-pools likewise (in Campden) were drawn and search'd, but nothing could be there found neither : so that some were of opinion, the body might be hid in the ruins of Campden-house, burnt in the late wars, and not unfit for such a concealment ; where was likewise search made, but all in vain.

Saturday, August the 25th, Joan and Richard Perry, together with John Perry, were brought before the justice of peace, who acquainting the said Joan and Richard with what John had laid to their charge, they deny'd all, with many imprecations on themselves if they were in the least guilty of any thing of which they were accus'd ; but John on the other side affirmed (to their faces) that he had spoken nothing but the truth, and that they had murdered his master ; further telling them, that he could never be at quiet for them since he came into his master's service, being

being continually follow'd by them, to help them to money, which they told him he might do, by giving them notice when his master went to receive his lady's rents; and, that he meeting his brother Richard in Campden town, the Thursday morning his master went to Charringworth, told him whither he was going, and upon what errand. Richard confess'd he met his brother that morning, and spoke with him, but nothing pass'd between'em to that purpose; and both he and his mother told John he was a villain to accuse them wrongfully, as he had done: but John on the other side affirm'd that he had spoken nothing but the Truth, and would justify it to his death.

One remarkable circumstance happened in these prisoners return from the Justice of the Peace's house to Campden. viz. Richard Perry (following a good distance behind his brother John) pulling a clout out of his pocket, dropt a ball of inkle, which one of his guard taking up he desired him to restore; saying, it was only his wifes hair lace; but the party opening of it, and finding a slip knot at the end, went and shewed it unto John, who was then a good distance before, and so knew nothing of the dropping and taking up of this inkle; but being shewed it, and asked whether he knew it, shook his head and said, yea, to his sorrow; for that was the string his brother strangled his master with, this was sworn upon the evidence at their tryal.

The morrow being the Lord's day, they remained at Campden where the minister of the place designing to speak to them (if possible to

B

per-

persuade them to repentance, and a farther confession) they were brought to church ; and in their way thither, passing by Richard's house, two of his children meeting him, he took the lesser in his arm, leading the other in his hand, when on a sudden both their Noses fell a bleeding, which was looked upon as ominous.

Here it will be no impertinent digression to tell how the year before Mr. Harrison had his house broke open between eleven and twelve of the clock at noon, upon Campden market-day, whilst himself and his whole family were at the lecture ; a ladder being set up to a window of the second story, and an iron bar wrenched thence with a plough share, which was left in the room and seven-score pounds in money carried away, the authors of which robbery could never be found.

After this, and not many weeks before Mr. Harrison's absence, his servant Perry one evening, in Campden-garden, made an hideous outcry, whereat some who heard it coming in, met him running, and seemingly frightened, with a sheep pick in his hand, to whom he told a formal story, how he had been set upon by two men in white, with naked swords, and how he defended himself with his sheep-pick, the handle whereof was cut in two of three places ; and likewise a key in his pocket, which he said was done with one of their swords.

These passages the Justice of Peace having before heard and calling to mind, upon Perry's confession, asked him first concerning the robbery, when his master lost seven score pounds out of his house, at noon-day, whether he knew  
who



who did it? who answered, yes, it was his brother: and being further asked, whether he was then with him; he answered, no, he was then at church; but that he gave him notice of the money, and told him in which room it was, and where he might have a ladder that would reach the window; and that his brother after told him he had the money, and had buried it in his garden, and that they were at Michaelmas next to have divided it: whereupon search was made in the garden, but no money could be there found.

And being further asked concerning that other passage, of his being assaulted in the garden; he confessed it was all a fiction, and that having a design to rob his master, he did it, that rogues (being believed to haunt the place when his master was robbed) might be thought to have done it.

At the next assizes, which were held in September following, John, Joan, and Richard Perry had two indictments found against them; one for breaking into Williams Harrison's house, and robbing him of 140*l.* in the year 1659; the other for robbing and murdering the said William Harrison the 16th day of August, 1660. Upon the last indictment, the then Judge of assizes, Sir Christopher Turner, Kt. would not try them because the body was not found, but they were then try'd upon the other indictment for robbery, to which they pleaded not guilty; but some whispering behind them, they soon after pleaded guilty, humbly begging the benefit of his Majesty's gracious pardon and act of oblivion, which was granted them.

But

But tho' they pleaded guilty to this indictment being thereunto prompted (as is probable) by some who were unwilling to lose time, and trouble the court with their tryal, in regard as the act of oblivion pardon'd them; yet they all afterwards and at their deaths, deny'd that they were guilty of that robbery, or that they knew who did it.

Yet at this affize, as several credible persons have affirmed John Perry still persisted in his story, that his Mother and brother had murder'd his master; and further added, that they had attempted to poison him in the goal, so that he durst not eat nor drink with them.

At the next affizes, which were the spring following, John, and Richard Perry were by the then Judge of affize, Sir Robert Hyde, Kt. try'd upon the indictment of murder, and pleaded thereunto (severally) not guilty; and when John's Confession before the Justice was proved Viva Voce by several witnesses who heard the same he told them, he was then mad, and knew not what he said.

The other two, Richard and Joan Perry, said, they were wholly innocent of what they were accused; and, that they knew nothing of Mr. Harrison's death, nor what was become of him; and Richard said, that his brother had accused others as well as him, to have murdered his master; which the Judge bidding him prove, he said, that most of those that had given evidence against him knew it; but naming none; nor any one spoke to it; and so the Jury found them all three guilty.

Some few days after, being brought to the place

place of their execution, which was on Broadway Hill, within sight of Campden, the mother (being reputed a witch, and to have so bewitch'd her sons they could confess nothing while she lived) was first executed : after which, Richard being upon the ladder, professed, as he had done all along, that he was wholly innocent of the fact for which he was then to die ; and that he knew nothing of Mr. Harrison's death, nor what was become of him ; and did with great earnestness beg and beseech his brother (for the satisfaction of the whole world, and his own conscience) to declare what he knew concerning him ; but he with a dogged and surly carriage, told the people, he was not obliged to confess to them : yet immediately before his death said, he knew nothing of his master's death, nor what was become of him, but they might hereafter possibly hear.

Mr. William Harrison's letter to Sir Thomas Overbury, giving a particular account of his being convey'd to Turkey, and being made a slave there.

Honour'd Sir,

**I**N obedience to your commands I give you this true account of my being carried away beyond the seas, my continuance there and return home. On a Thursday in the afternoon, in harvest-time, I went to Charringworth, to demand rents to my Lady Campden, at which time the tenants were busy in the fields, and late e're they came home, which occasion'd my stay there till the close of the evening. I expected a considerable sum, but receiv'd only 23*l*. and no more ; in my  
return



return home (in the narrow passage among Ebringtonfurzes) there met me one horse-man, and said, Art Thou There ? and I fearing he would have rid over me, struck his horse over the nose ; whereupon he struck at me with his sword, several blows, and run it into my side ; while I (with my little cane) made my defence as well as I could : at last another came behind me and run me into the thigh, laid hold on the collar of my doublet, and drew me to a hedge, near that place ; then come in another : they did not take my money, but mounted me behind one of them drew my arms about his middle, and fastned my wrists together with something that had a spring lock to it, as I conceived, by hearing it give a snap as they put it on ; then they threw a great cloak over me and carried me away : in the night they alighted at a hay-rick which stood near unto a stone-pit, by a wall side, where they took away my money, about two hours before day (as I heard one of them tell the other he thought it to be then) they tumbled me into the stone-pit ; they staid (as I thought) about an hour at the hay-rick, when they took horse again ; one of them bad me come out of the pit, I answer'd they had my money already ; and asked what they would do with me, whereupon he struck me again, drew me out, and put a great quantity of money in my pockets, and mounted me again after the same manner : and on the Friday, about sun-setting, they brought me to a lone house upon a heath, (by a thicket of bushes) where they took we down almost dead, being sorely braised with the carriage of the money : when the woman of the house saw that I could neither stand  
nor

nor speak, she asked them whether or no they had brought a dead man, they answered no, but a friend that was hurt, and that they were carrying him to a Surgeon, she answered, if they did not make hast, their friend would be dead before they could bring him to one; there they laid me on cushions, and suffered none to come into the room but a little girl, there we staid all night, they giving me some broth and strong-waters: in the morning, very early, they mounted me as before, and on Saturday night they brought me to [a place where were two or three houses, in one of which I lay all night on cushions by their bed side: on Sunday morning they carried me from thence, and about three or four of the clock they brought me to a place by the sea-side, called Deal, where they laid me down on the ground: and one of them staying by me, the other two walked a little off, to meet a man with whom they talked; and in their discourse I heard them mention seven pounds; after which they went away together, and about half an hour after returned.

The man (whose name as I after heard, was Wrenshaw) said, he feared I would die before he could get me on board.

Then presently they put me into a boat, and carried me on ship-board, where my wounds were dressed.

I remain'd in the ship (as near as I could reckon) about six weeks, in which time I was indifferently recover'd of my wounds and weakness. Then the master of the ship came and (told me, and the rest who were in the same Condition) that he discovered three Turkish ships

ships; we all offer'd to Fight in the defence of the ship and our selves, but he commanded us to keep close, and said he would deal with them well enough.

A little while after he call'd us up, and when we came upon the deck, we saw two Turkish ships close by us; in one of them we were put, and placed into a dark hole, where, how long we continued before we were landed, I knew not.

When we were landed they led us two days journey, and put us into a great house, or prison, where we remain'd four days and a half; and then came to us eight men to view us, who seem'd to be officers; they called us and examin'd us of our trades and callings, which every one answered: one said he was a Surgeon; another, that he was a Broad-cloth weaver, and I (after two or three demands) said I had some skill in physick: we three were set by, and taken by three of those eight men that came to view us: it was my chance to be chosen by a grave physician of eighty-seven years of age, who lived near to Smyrna, who had formerly been in England, and knew Crowland in Lincolnshire, which he prefer'd before all others places in England: he employed me to keep his still-house, and gave me a silver bowl double gilt, to drink in; my business was most in that place: out once he set me to gether cotton-wool, which I not doing to his mind, he struck me down to the ground, and after drew his steletto to stab me; but I holding up my hand, to him, he gave a stamp, and turned from me, for which I render thanks to my Lord and Saviour  
Jesus



Jesus Christ, who staid his hand and preserved me. I was there about a year and three quarters, and then my Master fell sick on a Thursday, and sent for me, and called me as he used, by the name of Boll, told me he should die, and bid me shift for myself: he died on Saturday following, and I presently hasten'd with my bowl to a port almost a days journey distant; the way to which place I knew, having been twice there employ'd by my master about the carriage of his cotton-wool: when I came thither, I address'd myself to two men who came out of a ship of Hamborough, which (as they said) was bound for Portugal, within three or four days. I enquired of them for an English ship; they answer'd, there were none. I entreated them to take me into their ship; they answered, they durst not for fear of being discover'd by the searchers, which might occasion the forfeiture, not only of their goods, but also of their lives: I was very importunate with them, but could not prevail; they left me to wait on providence, which at length brought another out of the same ship, to whom I made known my condition, craving his assistance for my transportation; he made me the like answer as the former, and was as stiff in his denial, till the sight of my bowl put him to a pause: he returned to the ship, and after half an hour space he came back again accompanied with another seaman, and for my bowl undertook to transport me: but told me I must be contented to lie down in the keel, and endure much hardship, which I was content to do, to gain my liberty; so they took me on board, and plac'd me below in the vessel in a very uneasy place

place, and obscur'd me with boards and other things, were I lay undiscover'd, notwithstanding the strict search that was made in the vessel; my two chapmen, who had my bowl, honestly furnished me with victuals daily, until we arriv'd at Lisbon in Portugal, where (as soon as the master had left the ship, and was gone into the city) they set me on shore money-less to shift for my self. I knew not what course to take, but as providence led me, I went up into the city, and came into a fair street; and being weary, I turned my back to a wall, and leaned upon my staff: over against me were four gentlemen discoursing together; after a while one of them came to me, and spoke to me in a language that I understood not: I told him I was an English man, and understood not what he spoke; he answered me in plain English, that he understood me, and was himself born near Wisbich in Lincolnshire; then I related to him my sad condition, and he taking compassion on me, took me with him provided for me lodging and diet, by his interest with a master of the ship, bound for England, procur'd my passage; and bringing me on ship board he bestow'd wine and strong waters on me, and at his return gave me eight stivers, and commended me to the care of the master of the ship, who landed me safe at Dover, from whence I made shift to get to London, where being furnish'd with necessaries, I came into the country.

Thus, honoured sir, I have given you a true account of my great sufferings, and happy deliverance by the mercy and goodness of God, my most gracious Father in Jesus Christ, my Saviour and redeemer; to whose name be ascribed  
all

all honour praise, and glory. I conclude and rest,  
Your worship's in all dutiful respect.

William Harrison.

Sir Thomas Overbury's Letter to Dr. Shirley,

S I R,

**I**T has not been any neglect in me, that you have no sooner heard from me, but my unhappy distemper seizing on my right hand soon after my coming down into the country, so that till now I have been wholly deprived of the use of it. I have herewith sent you a short narrative of that no less strange than unhappy business, which some years since happened in my neighbourhood; the truth of every particular wherof I am able to attest, and I think it may very well be reckoned among the most remarkable occurrences of this age: You may dispose of it as you please, and in what ever else I can serve you, you may freely command me, as, Sir,

Your affectionate kinsman, and humble servant,

THO. OVERBURY.

Barton, Aug. 23, 1676.

**M**ANY question the truth of this account Mr. Harrison's gives of himself, and his transportation, believing he was never out of England; but there is no question of Perry's telling a formal false story to hang himself, his mother and his brother: and since this of which we are assur'd, is no less incredible than that of which we doubt, it may induce us to suspend hard thoughts of Mr. Harrison, till time the great discoverer of truth, shall bring to light this dark and mysterious business. That Mr. Harrison was absent from his habitation, employment, and relations, near two years, is certain; and if



not carried away (as he affirms) no probable reason can be given for his absence; he living plentifully and happily in the service of that honourable family, to which he had been then related above 50 years, with the reputation of a just and faithful servant; and having all his days been a man of sober life and conversation, cannot now reasonably be thought in his old age, so far to have misbehaved himself, as in such a manner voluntarily to have forsaken his wife his children, and his stewardship, and to leave behind him (as he then did) a considerable sum of his lady's money in his house. We cannot therefore in charity, but believe that Mr. Harrison was forcibly carried away; but by whom, or by whose procurement, is the Question. Those whom he affirms did it, he withal affirms never before to have seen; and that he saw not his servant Perry, nor his mother, nor his brother, the evening he was carried away. That he was spirited (as some are said to have been) is no ways probable in respect he was an old and infirm man, and taken from the most inland part of the nation: and if sold, as himself apprehends he was, for 7 pounds, that would not recompence the trouble and charge of his conveyance to the sea-side.

Some therefore have had hard thoughts of his eldest son, not knowing whom else to suspect; and believe the hopes of the stewardship, which he afterwards (by the lord Campden's favour) enjoy'd, might induce him to contrive his father's removal; and this they are the more confirmed in from his misbehaviour in it: but on the other side, 'tis hard to think the son should be knowing of his transportation; and consequent-

ly, of these unhappy persons innocency, as to the murder of him and yet prosecute them to death as he did ; and when condemn'd, should be the occasion of their being conveyed above 20 miles to suffer near Campden, and to procure John Perry to be there hang'd in chains, where he might daily see him, and himself to stand at the foot of the ladder, when they were all executed, as likewise he did.

These considerations, as they make improbable the son should be privy to his fathers transportation ; so they render the whole matter the most dark and mysterious, which we must therefore leave unto him who alone knoweth all things, in his due time, to reveal and bring to light.

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An Account of the Trial and Execution  
of William Shaw, hanged at Edin-  
burg, for the Murder of his Daugh-  
ter, Catharine Shaw, in the Year  
1721, with the extraordinary man-  
in which his innocence was discovered  
a year after his death.

**T**HE ways of Providence are so dark and intricate, that there cannot be a more presumptuous attempt than to endeavour to unravel and explain them ; religion, as well as reason, should teach us to submit, however un-

accountable they may seem, instead of cavelling at the dispensations of him, the depth of whose ways, no finite understanding can sound.

Amongst a variety of events, which it is not possible for a creature of such limited faculties as man to reconcile to the idea of a superintending providence, the executions of those who were never guilty of the crimes for which they suffer, are the most striking; and although they furnish the sceptical with objections against the divine goodness, rather excite awe in the minds of the serious and well-disposed, as they evince the necessity of a heavenly tribunal, before which the decrees of earthly judges shall be rejudged, and from which all human actions shall meet with an adequate punishment or reward.

The execution of William Shaw is perhaps as remarkable an instance as any to be met with in history, that a person may be convinced upon the strongest circumstances for a fact of which he is innocent.

Not to detain the reader any longer with preliminary reflections, I shall enter directly upon the narrative of this melancholy affair.

William Shaw, upholsterer, at Edinburg, had a daughter, named Catharine Shaw, for whom he had a great deal of paternal affection, till she encouraged the addresses of John Lawson a jeweller. The objections of the father to his daughter's having any connexion with this person, were indeed very just. Lawson was a young fellow addicted to gaming, drinking, and every sort of vice; Shaw had forbid him the house, but his daughter found means to see him frequently elsewhere, which instance of disobedience



ence so provoked the former, that he kept her closely confined ; and his affection being entirely alienated from her, no longer behaved to her with the kindness of a tender parent, but with the coldness and reserve of a gaoler, who keeps a prisoner in confinement.

One evening he came into her apartment, about eight o'clock, and informed her, that he and their neighbour Alexander Robertson had just agreed, that it should be a match between her and the Son of the latter.

Catharine, upon hearing this, expressed the utmost Abhorrence for the person proposed to her as a husband by her father, and declared in the most peremptory manner, that she would rather die than consent to be his wife.

Hereupon there ensued very high words between the father and his Daughter ; and as the room in which they then were, was separated only by a single partition, from that of one of their neighbours ; many of the expressions uttered by them were overheard, and these being sworn to before the Court, at the trial of William Shaw, furnished a great part of that strong presumptive evidence of his guilt, upon which he was afterwards condemned to death. He at last left her, after much altercation, assuring her, that her confinement should be more close, and her treatment rougher than ever.

He had not been out above an hour when several groans were heard from the apartment of his daughter, by the same person who had before overheard their conversation.

This man, who was a watch-case maker by trade

trade, and whose name was James Morrison, went immediately to several of his neighbours, and these having, upon entering the room, heard Catharine Shaw groan often, and two or three times utter these words, "Cruel father, thou art the cause of my death," with the voice of one dying, immediately conceived a suspicion that Catharine Shaw had been murdered by her father. They therefore went to the house and knocked at the door, but nobody answering, their suspicion was confirmed.

They then went to the next constable, and having informed him of their suspicions, all repaired together to the house of William Shaw, and having forced the door, entered the apartment of Catharine, who lay upon her bed weltering in her blood, with a knife by her, with which it appeared, she had stabbed herself.

They spoke to her, but she was speechless, and returned no answer in words; but when they asked her whether she owed her death to her father; she made a motion with her head, which they construed, as signifying assent, and immediately expired.

Their suspicion that Alexander Shaw was guilty of the murder, was so far corroborated, that they scarce retained any doubt of his having killed his daughter; when by his coming home it was soon after turned into certainty.

The disorder he discovered upon seeing his daughter murdered; and some of the neighbours with a constable in his house, they interpreted into a proof of his guilt; and the constable observing that there was blood upon his shirt, that  
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was looked upon by all present as an evidence of his guilt, equivalent to demonstration : though he accounted for this, by asserting, and that with an air of confidence (which a person conscious of guilt could not assume) that that was owing to his having blooded himself two days before, and the bāndage loosing in the night, he had bled for a short time without perceiving it.

He was directly carried before a magistrate, who, upon hearing the depositions of James Morrison, and the rest, was as firmly convinced of Shaw's guilt, as they were, and immediately committed him to prison.

When he was afterwards brought to a trial, his guilt was so strongly proved by many concurring circumstances, that he was condemned to be hanged in chains at Leith-walk, which sentence was executed about a fortnight after in the month of November 1721.

It was the univērsal persuasion of all the inhabitants of Edinburg that he was really guilty of the inhuman action laid to his charge, though he had upon his trial made a good defence, and uttered it with all the confidence of an innocent man, and persisted in maintaining his innocence to the last, declaring in the most solemn manner to the very moment before he was turned off, that he was entirely innocent of his daughter's death.

Thus did this unhappy and unfortunate man fall a victim to public justice, and was considered as guilty of one of the blackest murders, till about a twelvemonth after his innocence was brought to light, by an unexpected event ; and

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he who had been a twelvemonth the object of universal abhorrence and detestation, at last became as universally the object of Compassion and regret.

The person who took the house, after the execution of Alexander Shaw, happening one day to rummage about in the apartment in which Katharine Shaw had formerly been confined, happened to see a letter in a sort of a cavity on one side of the chimney. He opened it, and reading it, was very much surprized to find the contents as follows,

Barbarous Father,

**Y**OUR cruelty, in having put it out of my power ever to join my fate to that of the only man I could love, and tyrannically insisting upon my marrying one whom I always hated, has made me form a resolution to put an end to an existence, which is become a burden to me.

I doubt not I shall find mercy in another world, for sure no benevolent being can require that I should any longer live in torment to myself in this!

My death I lay to your charge : when you read this, consider yourself as the inhuman wretch that plunged the murderous knife in the bosom of the unhappy,

Catharine Shaw.

This letter having been shewn to several relations of the deceased, who knew the handwriting to be hers, was soon after made public, and the magistrates of Edinburg having taken cognizance of the affair, and being convinced of

Shaw's

Shaw's innocence, they ordered his body to be taken down from the gibbet, where it hung, and given to his relations, by whom it was decently buried, and a pair of colours was waved over his grave in token of his innocence; but such un-availing ceremonies could not recall the dead to life, though they might in part obliterate the infamy, by which his name was rendered odious, and which by a common prejudice, proved injurious to all his surviving relations.



Account of the remarkable trial and execution of James Crow, alias Thomas Geddely, who was executed at York in the year 1727, for a burglary and robbery, committed in the house of Hannah Williams.

**T**HE Execution of Thomas Geddely, who suffered for a crime of which he was entirely innocent has something still more extraordinary in its circumstances than the former; there is indeed so much of the marvellous in it, that it will very probably be looked upon by many as the fictitious production of some inventive head, though many still living at York are able to attest the truth of it.

One Hannah Williams, who kept an ale-house at that city, and who had more customers than any publican there, had amassed some wealth by her business, of which she was most  
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avariciously tenacious and careful ; but all her care could not prevent her being robbed, as it often happens, that the vigilance and attention of the avaricious only serves to excite the rapaciousness of the dishonest.

She had in her house a waiter, Thomas Geddely by name, who one morning found means to break open her scrutore, and taking from thence the sum of thirty guineas, left York, and was never seen there after.

About a twelvemonth after this fact had been committed, one James Crow came to York, where he, for a few days subsisted in a precarious manner, by carrying goods, and doing other business as a porter. This person had so strong a resemblance to Thomas Geddely, both in his face and shape, that many who had known him, addressed this latter upon a supposition that it was he; and when Crow declared that he did not know them, and affirmed he had never been at York before : they all looked upon it as dissimulation to screen himself from the law, as an opinion had prevailed universally amongst the inhabitants of York, that the burglary and robbery above-mentioned, had been committed in the house of Hannah Williams by Thomas Geddely.

Crow had not been long at York before he was seen by her, and she was so struck with his resemblance to Geddely, that not having the least doubt but it was he, she immediately had him taken up, and carried before a Justice of the Peace. At his examination, he positively asserted that his name was not Thomas Geddely, but Thomas Crow ; but not being able to give



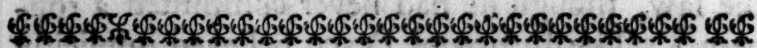
a good account of himself (for it appeared from his confession afterwards, that he was a vagabond, and had been guilty of many frauds and deceits, which would have exposed him to the lash of the law, though he had never committed a robbery.) The Justice of Peace believed implicitly all that was said by Hannah Williams, and immediately committed him to York gaol.

Being soon after brought to a trial, he denied himself to be the person mentioned in the indictment; but Hannah Williams, and several others, swearing to his identity, and he being unable to prove a *Alibi*, except by his bare assertion, he was found guilty of the burglary and robbery, as there was very strong evidence against him; one girl belonging to the house having sworn, that she had, through a key-hole in the parlour, seen him break open the scrutore, and take the money from thence.

He was soon after executed, though he persisted to the last, and to deny that his name was Thomas Geddely. However, in less than a twelve-month, it became universally known, that he had spoken the truth: for Geddely, who had gone over to Ireland after he had committed the robbery, was there condemned to death for a fact of the same nature.

In his dying-speech he acknowledged himself to be the person that had committed the robbery for which James Crow had suffered at York, and a native of that city, who happened to be in Dublin at the time of his execution, and who had seen both, declared that the resemblance was so great, that he should never have been able to know them asunder.

A succession of several ages can hardly produce a more extraordinary event, but the truth of it is known to many still living at York.



### Remarkable Tryal and Execution of John Miles, who was hanged at Exeter for the Murder of William Ridly, of which he was innocent.

IT is a just observation of Shakespear, that murder, tho' it has no tongue, will speak with most miraculous organs; yet the propensity of men to credit the marvellous, in cases of this nature, has sometimes occasioned acts of the highest injustice.

There cannot be a more striking instance of the infatuation, than the case of John Miles, whose fatal catastrophe was owing to the influence of Superstition, which as soon as it has taken possession of the minds of men, entirely deprives them of their understanding.

William Ridley, who for some years kept the Red Cow, a public house at Exeter, going one morning to receive a sum of money, happened to meet John Miles, a man whom he had for many years been acquainted with, he asked him to take a glass with him for old acquaintance sake; and after they had staid for some time together, Ridly recollecting that he had business of importance, told Miles, that he must leave him for some time, but that he would soon return.

Miles

Miles having waited a considerable time, and not finding that Ridly came back according to his promise, went away. Not long after Ridly returned, having received the money; as he did not see Miles there he immediately went away, but recollecting that he had forgot his stick in the room, he returned for it; and just then, two of his acquaintance entering, they agreed to drink a bottle; as conversation over a bottle is often protracted, they continued for a considerable time drinking, and Ridly happening to see Miles pass again by the window, called him in. They continued drinking after the return of Miles about an hour longer, and then Ridly and Miles went together to the house of the former to dine together, the other two were likewise invited, but being otherwise engaged, excused themselves from going.

When dinner was over, Ridly, who had not seen Miles for a considerable time, ordered a bowl of punch; and shaking him heartily by the hand, encouraged him to drink heartily, assuring him, that he was always glad to meet with with an old acquaintance, and that he never failed to make much of such an one.

These professions of kindness were returned with equal warmth by Miles, and they continued drinking till they were both almost fuddled, for the ebullitions of friendship in persons of the lower class, are always attended with copious libations to Bacchus.

As it grew late, Ridly happening to have a call of nature, went to the necessary-house; as he was going to it, the candle happened to go out, and as it lay at the end of a long, narrow passage



passage, had no boards but those near the seat, his foot slipped, and he fell in on one side. It was a deep vault, and by his falling into it, his skull was fractured, and there he lay covered all over with filth, which must have suffocated him, even if his skull had not have been fractured.

Ridly not returning, Miles, who was much over-powered by the liquor he drank, was found sitting alone, by the people of the house ; they asked him Where Ridly was ? and as he was disordered by what he had drank, he answered, in an incoherent and confused manner, which created a suspicion in Ridly's wife, who mistook the jabbering and broken phrases of a drunken man, for indications of some criminal intention.

Miles, at last, left the house, not being able to give any account of the manner in which Ridly and he parted, though he owned, that they had passed a great part of the day together, and that he had been with him at another public-house before.

It was a matter of great surprize, both to the people of that house, and to the whole neighbourhood, that Ridly never after appeared ; and as his wife knew he had received a sum of money, the day on which he was missing, she conceived a suspicion that Miles, whose countenance appeared to her to be that of a man capable of any black design, had murdered her husband, and robbed him of it.

She often mentioned these suspicions in her conversations with the neighbours ; and as there is a natural propensity in the minds of people of the lower sort to credit ill reports, a general persuasion

suasion prevailed at Exeter, that John Mill. had murdered William Ridly, and this Persuasion afterwards was much increased by other reports, which was universally propagated about a month after the death of the latter. This was, that the house which Ridly had kept had been haunted ever since his supposed murder, and several that lodged in the house declared, that they had seen the ghost.

There was also a general belief in the neighbourhood, that frequent knockings had been heard after midnight, and it was generally thought that these supernatural events amounted to a demonstration that William Ridly had been murdered.

The wife hereupon grew still more positive in her assertion, that John Mills had committed the murder, and every time that the ghost was said to appear, the persuasion that Mills must be the murderer became more general.

An old man that had lodged in the house for a considerable time, and who listened to all these stories of the apparition, with uncommon credulity had his imagination so much tinged with superstition, that he once actually thought that the ghost of Ridly drew open the curtains of his bed after midnight, and declared that J. Mills was the person that had murdered him.

The wife of Ridly, was now so firmly convinced of the guilt of Miles, that she had him taken upon suspicion, and when he was carried before a Justice of Peace, he could not give a clear and satisfactory account where, or in what manner, he had parted from Ridly, which very much strengthened that Magistrate's prepossession of his guilt.

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He was soon after brought to a trial; and as all the witnesses who appeared against him were convinced by their prejudices, that he was the murderer, they deposed so many circumstances against him, that the Jury, which were likewise prepossessed of his guilt, from the many reports which they had heard, brought in their verdict Wilful Murder.

He was accordingly executed, tho' he persisted to the last to maintain his innocence, and it appeared too late that he was innocent in fact; for Mrs. Ridley having left the house that had been kept by her late husband, the person who took it got some repairs to be made, particularly in the necessary-house, which was very inconvenient, and at the bottom of a dark alley.

In making these repairs, the body of William Ridly was found: and as the sum of twenty guineas was found in his pocket, it became evident that he had not been murdered, because had he been murdered, and thrown in there, the person who had murdered him would not have failed to take the money at the same time.

These are a few of the many remarkable proofs of the dangerous consequences of popular superstitions.



Account of the remarkable execution of Thomas Harris, who was executed at York in the year 1642, for the murder of James Gray, of which he was innocent.

**J**AMES GRAY, a Blacksmith by trade, going from York to Edinburg in the year 1642,



stopped at the house of one Thomas Harris, where, having passed the Evening, he retired to rest, seemingly in good health ; but next morning was found dead in his bed, having been seized with a fit of apoplexy.

Thomas Harris had a servant in his House with whom he had frequent differences, and had a few days before beat him severely.

This servant, whose name was Morgan, being of a spiteful, and revengeful disposition, immediately resolved to avail himself of this opportunity, to swear away the life of his master ; and was joined in this wicked design by the cook, who was his sweet-heart. They used so much art in their depositions before the Justice of Peace, by declaring that James Gray had been strangled at day-break by their master, and that he had robbed the deceased of thirty guineas, which they had seen him hide in the garden ; upon which a warrant was granted to have the house searched. Gray was found dead in the bed, and upon search being made in the garden, the money was found. This last circumstance furnished a strong presumption against Harris, tho' many persons of avaricious tempers have had recourse to the same expedient of hiding money in the earth.

Harris however maintained his innocence with the most positive asseverations ; but when he was asked Why he had that money in the ground ? he answered with hesitation ; and this action, which was in him only a proof of sordid avarice, was looked upon as an evidence of his being guilty of murder and robbery.

When he was brought to a trial, the maid and man-servant swore in the most confident manner

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to his having committed the murder, and were so exact with regard to all the circumstances, that they could not be detected in any inconsistency, even by cross-examination.

Harris defended himself with all the confidence which innocence inspires, but even innocence itself, cannot save a man from malice and perjury; and as positive evidence had been given against him, he was condemned to die, and was accordingly executed, tho' the manner in which he affirmed his innocence, the very moment before he was turned off, induced several to believe that he was hanged unjustly.

A twelvemonth after, the whole truth of this wicked calumny came to be discovered; for the Cook having a quarrel with her Paramour, frequently upbraided him with having drawn her in to swear away her Master's life. The altercations became so frequent between them, that they were often over-heard; and it came to be generally known in York, that Harris had been hanged innocent. His fate was universally compassionated, and it raised the indignation of the public, that those that had, by their perjury, brought him to that end, never met with a punishment adequate to their guilt, for tho' taken up, and committed to prison, they there died of the gaol-disease, which prevented them from the fate which their villainy so well deserved.

Account of the Trial and Execution of  
Jonathan Bradford an Inn-keeper,  
who was executed at Oxford, for the  
Murder of Christopher Hayes, Esq; in  
1736.

**I**T appears to be highly, propable that were the  
cases of those who suffer for crimes, which  
they never committed thoroughly known, we  
should discover in this punishment, manifest  
proofs of the Justice of God, and that they de-  
serv'd their fate either for ill intentions, which  
they never had it in their power to execute, or  
for other Crimes which they had committed tho'  
innocent of the Facts for which they died. We  
have a remarkable example of this in the Execu-  
tion of Jonathan Bradford, who suffer'd at Ox-  
ford, for a Murder which he never committed,  
except in intent, and which was in reality perpe-  
trated by another. This remarkable example of  
the divine vengeance punishing an intended crime  
confirms the truth of Juvenal's observation, *Salus  
intra se tacitum qui cogitet ullum facti crimen  
habet.* Not to detain the reader any farther  
with preliminary reflections, I shall proceed di-  
rectly to the narrative of this extraordinary event,  
which will furnish sufficient matter for medita-  
tion to all the serious and considerate.

Jonathan Bradford kept an Inn upon the road  
that leads from London to Oxford, and for some  
years had the character of a religious, honest man,  
but the thirst of gain, will pervert the best Dis-  
positions, and it was that which inspir'd Bradford  
with



with the idea of that horrid crime, for which he suffer'd tho' he had perpetrated it only in imagination. Mr. Christopher Hayes, a Gentleman, who possess'd an estate of about a hundred a year, in Somersetshire, happening in the year 1736, to travel to Oxford, whence he had been invited to pass the summer by his uncle, who resided, in that city stopped one evening at the Inn kept by Bradford. He supp'd with two Gentlemen, who were likewise upon their way to Oxford, and happening in his conversation with them to discover that he had a considerable sum about him in ready Money. Bradford who made but little by his Business and happen'd at that time to want cash, formed the villainous design of murdering and robbing him, which he was prevented from carrying into execution, by the extraordinary circumstance of another person's conceiving the same wicked purpose and perpetrating it. Bradford had before more than once form'd the barbarous design of murdering the Gentlemen, who lay at his house, when they carried with them money sufficient to tempt his avarice, but these murderous thoughts and diabolical suggestions were hitherto confined to his own breast, and never excited him to any action which could expose him to punishment. Upon the present occasion the tempter prov'd too powerful for him ; and after having lain for some hours in all the agitations, by which the breasts of those who yield to evil and seducing thoughts are subject to be torn: he got up, and taking a dark lantern and a knife, went to the door of the Room where Mr. Hayes lay. His heart however failed him the first time, as novices in guilt are always subject

subject to the palpitations of timidity, and the rudiments of vice must be long learn'd before the sinner becomes harden'd in villainy. When he return'd to his bed, his horrors were redoubled, and though he had only conceived the intention of committing a murder, his conscience tormented him as much as if he had perpetrated it in fact. Restless and constantly sollicitd by the tempter, who every moment presented to his Imagination, deprav'd by avarice that glittering bait of a purse of gold of which he could in a moment possess himself: he again descended to the door of the chamber where Mr. Hayes lay, but hearing somebody cough, was seized with terror for fear of discovery, and ran up a third time to his bed. But at last the influence of the evil spirit became too powerful to be resisted, and Bradford descending with his dark lanthorn and knife, went to the door of Mr. Hayes's chamber, which, to his great surprise, he found open. His surprize was greatly increased, when approaching his bed, with the murderous intention of plunging a knife in his heart, he found him already murder'd and weltering in his blood. So much was he shocked at this sight, that he was going to retire with precipitation, but avarice soon getting the ascendant, he resolv'd to search him, and take what money he had about him. This resolution, which he however had not time to put in execution, was the cause of his coming to a shameful end, for just then the two Gentlemen who had suppd with Mr. Hayes, and who had heard him utter two or three groans after he had received the stab of which he died, conceiving a suspicion that some villainous deed was the point of being perpetrated,

petrated, had left their bed, and striking a light, went directly to Mr. Hayes's Room. When they enter'd it, and saw him weltering in his blood and Bradford standing by him with a dark lantern, and a knife in his hand, they immediately concluded that he had committed the murder, and their persuasion of his guilt was confirmed by his starting, changing colour, and discovering all the symptoms of terror, with which detected villainy is generally attended. They charged Bradford with the murder, but he recovering himself, and assuming on a confidence, which he should have shewn at first, boldly asserted that he came with the same view that they did, that he had heard a noise; and suspecting some villiany, came in that manner, in order to prevent the execution of it. The gentlemen however were convinced that he was the murderer, and resolving to carry him before a justice of peace in the morning, they immediately tied him fast, lest he should make his escape, and one of them having awaken'd some other persons, that were then in the Inn, they in their turns watched the supposed criminal till the justice of peace was stirring.

When Bradford was carried before the justice, there appeared such strong circumstances against him, and he answered with so much hesitation, and discovered so many symptoms of guilt, that the justice of Peace committed him, making use of this remarkable expression, "This murder was either committed by you or by myself." He at the same time told him that he was a dead man, and advised him to lay aside all thoughts of this world and think of that which is to come.

At the ensuing affizes at Oxford, Bradford  
was



was brought to a trial, and there appear'd such strong evidence of his having committed the Murder, that the Jury found him guilty without going out of the box. The two gentlemen who supped with Mr. Hayes, the night on which he was murdered, swore they found him standing over the body of that gentleman, which lay all besmeared with blood, with a knife in one hand, and a dark lanthorn in the other; that he started, turned pale, and shewed all the indications of guilt in his countenance upon being seen by them, and that they had heard the groans of the dying man but a few minutes before. The prisoner in his defence declared that hearing a noise in the house, he suspected some villiany, that he got up in order to awaken some of his servants, and prevent it, that as he happen'd to have no other weapon by him, he took the knife to defend himself, as he did not doubt the villain was armed, and that with regard to the indications of terror, shewn by him, they were quite natural in one that had an object of so much horror before his eyes.

He was notwithstanding condemned to death, and executed about a fortnight afterwards. During his confinement which preceded his execution he was attended by two clergymen, who press'd him to acknowledge his guilt, that it would be a great aggravation of it, and he would be entirely unworthy of the divine mercy if he should die with a lie in his mouth. He however persisted to declare that he was perfectly innocent, till the night before his execution, at that time he was seized with remorse of conscience, and sending for the two clergymen above-mentioned,

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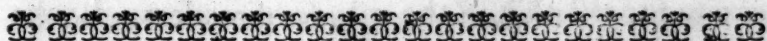
he confest the whole to them, and though he still persisted in maintaining his positive innocence, with regard to the fact, he acknowledged that he was intentionally guilty, and that he deserved death.

He was excuted in pursuance of his sentence and so general a persuasion prevailed, that he was the person that had murdered Mr. Hayes, that his fate was by all unpitied. Indeed a fact of such a nature has something peculiarly odious and shocking in it, as a host is one, who, as Macbeth observes in Shakespear,

————Should against a murderer shut the door  
Not bear the knife himself.——

It however at last came to be generally known that Bradford was not the person that had murdered Mr. Hayes. The fact was in reality committed by his footman, who having conceiv'd the same wicked Design with Bradshaw, put it in execution whilst the latter lay in the agitation described above, killing him and possessing himself of his Purse which contain'd thirty guineas and his gold watch and snuff-box, which were worth at least twelve guineas more. Though he had thus made off with his booty and escaped the law, he was often haunted with terrors and returned to Oxford about a year and a half after. Being taken ill of a fever, his terror and remorse, on account of the abominable action he had committed, were so great and so insupportable to him, that he confess'd the murder to the people of the house where he lodg'd, and would, doubtless have suffer'd for it, had not a natural death saved him from that shameful end, which he well deserved

deserved, for the horrid crime he had committed. It however seems doubtful whether his punishment was not greater than that which the law inflicts upon those guilty of his crime, for the horrors by which he was agitated, are not to be described, and the dreadful pangs in which he died, left the minds of all present impress'd with a just sense of the heinousness of that most horrid of all crimes, murder.



Account of the remarkable case of  
Oliver Lamb, who confess'd himself  
guilty of a murder he never committed,  
and was executed for the same,  
at Berwick upon Tweed, in the year  
1722.

**T**HERE have been many remarkable instances of hypochondriac and melancholy persons being hummed into destruction by their fears. An internal disorder of the machine, has often produc'd all the terrors of guilt, and there have been instances of persons who have thought themselves guilty of crimes, and pursu'd by the officers of justice, and laid violent hands upon themselves to escape that punishment which they had incurred only in Imagination. The case of Oliver Lamb, who was executed at Berwick, for the murder of one Mrs. Fergusson is a remarkable instance of this, and proves that in our daily prayers, we should implore the Almighty to deliver us from evil, since even innocence itself cannot  
always



always preserve men from danger and from the snares of death. Oliver Lamb after having been in two or three other services, was hired by Mrs. Elizabeth Fergusson, who liv'd in a retired manner at Berwick upon Tweed, on her own Fortune. He was remarkably sober and religious, constant in his attendance upon public worship, and generally pass'd his leisure hours in reading books of devotion, particularly those that are wrote in a mystic style and have a tendency to excite superstition in the minds of readers. Books of this kind have often had a bad effect upon persons of weak intellects, and strong imaginations. This was the case of Lamb, his imagination contracted so gloomy a turn and dwelt so much upon objects of horror, that this habit of mind conspiring with a parylitic disorder with which he was sometimes troubled, he was often tormented with strange apprehensions and terrors, equal to those with which the minds of men guilty of the blackest crimes are liable to be agitated. He sometimes thought himself bewitched, and in this absurd persuasion used frequently to rise after midnight and stroll about the streets for 2 or 3 nights together in these rambles, he often thought he met the devil, and next day told strange stories to his fellow servants, the cook and waiting maid, of the manner in which that evil spirit had appeared to him. Satan, he told them sometimes appear'd to him in the figure of an old man with a long beard, and after having convers'd with him for a considerable time, at last disappeared, all of a sudden, and left him in strange consternation and trouble of mind. Sometimes he join'd him in the form of a young man, and after  
having

having led him a dance all about the town, vanished with a flash of lightning. He said that upon these occasions he often perceived the devil's cloven foot and was seized with trembling and dreadful apprehensions. He said likewise that he sometimes lay awake in bed in horrid agonies, being tempted to commit wicked deeds, but that when he assum'd a little resolution, and prayed with fervour, those diabolical suggestions were immediately discontinued. One night he rose in great horror, and having awaken'd both his fellow servants told them, that the devil had in his sleep tempted him to murder his mistress, and that he had lain long in great torment and agitations through a persuasion, that he had in fact committed that crime. Mrs. Fergusson compassionating the case of her servant got a physician to attend him, who by proper remedies in some measure, re-establish'd his health, and his peace of mind was restor'd, as soon as his bodily organs were again brought to a natural state. His mind however continued gloomy and melancholy tho' it was no longer tormented with the same dismal and shocking thoughts as before. A learned divine who visited him after he had recovered his health, contributed much by his conversation to dissipate his terrors, and Lamb seem'd to have perfectly recovered his tranquility of mind, when an accident happened by which his former disorder was renewed with increas'd violence, and by which he was involved in greater misery than ever. Mrs. Fergusson was one morning, to the great surprize of her waiting maid, found murder'd in bed. Her scrutore was likewise found broke open and all her money and bank-notes, to a con-

considerable, value taken from thence. As soon as Oliver Lamb heard this, he declared himself guilty of the murder and ascrib'd his committing it to the devil's tempting him. He said he had long struggled with that evil spirit, but that he was at last become too strong for him, that he had committed that murder, and that the tempter was hourly exciting him to the commission of other crimes. Being asked what he had done with the money, and the bank-notes, he declared that he had hid them, but that the devil had come and taken them away in his absence. Being carried before a justice of peace, he made a full confession of the murder, and sign'd it with his name. He was soon after brought to a trial, and as he persisted to plead guilty when arraign'd, was condemned to be hanged in Chains.

The sentence was executed accordingly, and Oliver Lamb, was generally pitied by the people of Berwick upon Tweed, as a persuasion prevailed amongst them that his committing this crime was owing to a disorder of the Mind. This compassion was afterwards greatly increased when his innocence came to be universally known, as it did about 5 months after, for a person being then taken who had committed two or three robberies in the neighbourhood of Berwick upon Tweed, was tried, and being found guilty was executed in pursuance of his sentence.

This Person before his execution confessed himself guilty of the murder of Mrs. Fergusson, and of other crimes of the blackest dye. In consequence of this, Lamb was taken down from the gibbet, and the body of the real murderer, whose name was Robert Millar, was hung up in its place.



Account of the Execution of John Jennings, who was executed at Hull, in 1742. for a Robbery, which afterwards appear'd to have been committed by another.

**T**HE many examples that have occur'd of persons being hang'd innocent, have given rise to much trivial declamation against the law tho' if rightly taken, they are only proofs of the atrocious villainy of mankind and the heinousness of perjury which no human Laws can thoroughly restrain to prevent ; and which, none but only he to whom all hearts are open, is able to select or expose to mankind.

The unhappy catastrophe of John Jennings, proves incontestably that even innocence can be no security against perjury, and that the life of any man is in the power of him that will boldly swear a falsehood. I shall not detain the reader any longer with preliminary reflections, but proceed directly to the relation of this extraordinary event, the circumstances of which are so remarkable, that they will deserve the attention of every reader.

The Bell-Inn within five miles of Hull, was formerly kept by one James Brunell, who lived in a very expensive manner, tho' his house was but little frequented by customers, as there was much better usage at the King's Arms, another Inn a mile farther upon the road. An elderly gentleman, who was upon his way to Hull, was  
within

within two miles of the Bell-Inn, stopped by a highwayman, who bidding him, in the usual phrase of freebooters, Stand and Deliver, the old gentleman in a great panic gave him his purse which contain'd twenty guineas, and whilst the highwayman seemed to ride on towards York, he rid trembling and in all the agitation of terror and hurry to the Bell-Inn, where he alighted, and having ordered supper, waited in the kitchen whilst it was drest, and there talked with all present, of his having been robbed and two miles distance from the Inn, adding that he always took the Precaution to mark his gold, and that the highwayman might easily be detected if advertised: When supper was ready he was shewn into a room by one of the waiters, and when it was over, going to the bar to speak to the Landlord and give some directions, as the latter was at that time talking to a person, who had just come in, he waited till he might be at leisure. Soon after seeing the landlord, who was going to pay the person, who was just come in, and who was a carrier, take out one of his marked guineas amongst a handful of silver, he immediately conceived a suspicion, that he was the person he had been robb'd by. He retired soon after to the room where he had supped with a gentleman of his acquaintance, whom he accidentally met, when he went out to speak to the landlord. They set down to a bottle of wine, and in their conversation over it, the old gentleman declared his suspicion, that the man of the house was the person that robbed him. Guilt is always suspicious and the landlord, whose conscience

science was always ready to take the alarm, having observed that the old gentleman cast several looks at him, which seemed to accuse him of something, went to the door where he was drinking with his Friend, and listened to their conversation. What he overheard soon convinced him that he was suspected, whereupon he formed the black design of accusing an innocent person of having committed the robbery, as well in order to remove the suspicion from himself as to gratify a spirit of revenge. One of his waiters with whom he had had several differences, happening then to be very much in liquor and in bed, he resolved to avail himself of that opportunity to sacrifice one he hated, and to screen himself from the Punishment, which impended over him. He therefore went immediately to the room where the waiter lay fast asleep, and having put the purse with nineteen marked guineas in it, into one of his pockets, soon after took occasion to enter the room where the two Gentlemen were engaged in conversation over their bottle. He told the old gentleman that he had been informed he had been robbed, and that he apprehended he could from some circumstances guess at the person that had robbed him. He then asked several questions with regard to the Time, when the robbery had been committed and the old Gentleman having answered him, he expressed himself in this manner. I could almost take my oath that my waiter, John Jennings is the man that has robbed you, I have for some time past suspected him to be no better than he should be, he often spends a great deal of Money, and I can't think he comes by it honestly. I

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sent him out about five hours ago to get change for a guinea, and he came back very much in liquor and returning me a guinea, told me, he could not get change any where. I have since observ'd a mark upon the guinea, and I am positive it is not the same I gave him to change. Hereupon said the old gentleman, let me see the guinea, by its being marked, I dare say it is mine. The inn-keeper put the guinea into his hand and the old gentleman immediately affirm'd it to be his. If that be the case, said the Inn-keeper, I think our best way is to go and search Jennings to see whether he has got any more with the same mark about him, if he has, there can be no doubt but he is the man. The gentlemen agreed to this, and followed the inn-keeper up stairs to the room, where Jennings lay snoring. Upon searching his clothes the purse with nineteen marked guineas in it was found, and that was looked upon by the two gentlemen as a demonstration of his guilt. The old gentleman, who had been robbed had not seen the face of the person by whom he had been robbed as he was masked, and as Jennings appeared when he got up of the same size and stature with the innkeeper, he could have no manner of reason to doubt, as the money was found upon him, that he was the person. The Inn-keeper when he had awaked Jennings and made him put on his clothes, reviled him with the most opprobrious language, telling him he had always been sure that he would come to the Gallows at last. Jennings who was at first at a loss to know the meaning of what was said finding

finding himself accused of a robbery, protested his innocence but in vain. The more he asserted his innocence, the more vociferous were the others in their accusation. All present seeming convinced of his guilt, consulted what should be done with him, and the inn-keeper having made a motion that he should be confined in the coal-hole, till morning with the door bolted upon him, and then carried before the next Justice of Peace, this was readily agreed to, so the two gentlemen returned to their bottle and the Inn-keeper to his bar, the old hunks being highly delighted that he had recovered his twenty guineas and the publican, thinking himself happy as he had removed the suspicion of guilt from himself, and had it in his power to wreak his vengeance upon a man he had long had a spite to. Jennings being next day carried before the justice of peace, the depositions of Brunell, and the two gentlemen, seemed so strongly to prove his guilt, that the justice directly committed him, thinking the confidence with which he asserted his innocence was only a proof of his being hardened in villainy. Poor John Jennings being sent to jail, lay there loaded with irons till the assizes following and suffered a great deal of hardship and misery, as he being a stranger in that country, and at a distance from all his friends and relations, had no one to comfort or assist him.

When he was brought to a trial, the purse of marked guineas was produced in court, and as both the gentlemen swore that it had been found upon him, and Brunell the inn-keeper swore to many circumstances, calculated to prove the guilt

of Jennings; the Jury found him guilty, without ever stirring out of the box.

In consequence of his sentence he was about a fortnight after executed at Hull and persevered to assert his innocence to the very moment before he was turned off. 'Tis remarkable that during the time of his confinement Brunell went to visit him in prison, accompanied by two of his neighbours and counterfeiting zeal with all the art of hypocrisy exhorted him to make his peace with God by confessing the crime for which he suffered and acknowledge the justice of his sentence. Jennings fired with indignation hereof called him a perjured villain, and declared he had no doubt but that the robbery had been committed by himself, and he swore away his life in order to screen himself from justice. Hereupon Brunell and the two that came with him left the Prison, one of them however was so struck by what he had heard Jennings say, and still more by the air that accompanied his words, that in going out he said to himself loud enough to be heard by Brunell, "We shall know who is the robber one of these days."

Brunell, for almost a twelvemonth after, continued his wicked course of life frequently robbing upon the high-way, and sometimes robbing gentlemen who lay at his house; but fate, at last, overtook him, and his suffering at length the punishment he had so long deserved, was the occasion of John Jennings's innocence being discovered. Becoming at last entirely indifferent about his public business, and giving his mind to total rapine and plunder, he not only robbed up-  
on



on the high-way, but robbed gentlemen that lay at his house.

He notwithstanding remained a considerable time unsuspected; for generally robbing by night, those that were robbed did not know whom to fasten their suspicions upon. But as rogues grow hardened in villainy, they grow careless and audacious, and this often causes them to be stopped in their career. This happened to Brunell.

One night soon after a gentleman, who stopped at the Bell-inn, had retired to rest, Brunell went up to his chamber to rob him, as he had discovered from some words that the gentlemen happened to let drop in conversation with another that he had twenty pound about him in cash. Brunell was so impatient to make this booty his own, that without taking any precaution, such as disguising himself, or procuring a dark-lanthorn, he ran up to the gentleman's room with a candle in one hand, and a knife in the other. The gentleman lay awake in his bed, but as soon as he perceived Brunell he counterfeited sleep, and inoared aloud. The latter, thinking himself secure from discovery, seized upon the gentleman's purse, and then went down stairs with precipitation: as soon as he was gone, the gentleman struck a light, and awakening several others in the inn, communicated to them what had happened, and consulted with them what measures he should take, in order to bring the villainous landlord to justice; some were for deferring all proceeding till the morning, but one, bolder than the rest, advised to enter the inn-keeper's chamber with arms and search him; for, said he, if the purse  
be

be found upon him, it will put his guilt out of all manner of doubt. This motion was approved of by the rest, and they went directly to the landlord's apartment, and knocked loudly at the door. The inn-keeper, having struck a light, came to the door in his waistcoat. He was immediately seized, and held fast by two of the gentlemen. The other searched his pockets, and the purse was quickly found.

It being now evident, that he was guilty of the robbery, they bound him fast, and watched him in their turns till morning, when they conducted him to the next Justice of the Peace, who being fully convinced of Brunell's guilt, from the depositions of those who had taken him, caused the purse to be returned to the gentleman that had been robbed, and committed Brunell to the jail of Hull.

At the next assizes he was brought to a trial, and cast upon the most full and clear evidence. He behaved in the most hardened and insolent manner for some days after his trial : but about a week before his execution, he became as remarkably penitent, and confessed to a Clergyman, by whom he was visited in prison, all his former robberies, and made a particular discovery of all the circumstances of his plot against the life of John Jennings, who had been hanged innocent upon his evidence. The Clergyman advised him in public, to the memory of an innocent person, to publish a narrative of that whole affair. This he accordingly did, and the narrative which came out the evening before his execution convinced all the inhabitants of Hull that Jennings had been hanged innocent. He in consequence became the





John Meguire, by trade a cabinet-maker, was born in the city of Dublin, his parents had bestowed upon him as good an education as their circumstances could afford; when his apprenticeship was over, he began business upon his own bottom, and he appeared to be a young man of a remarkable serious and religious turn. But women whose dangerous attractions have made many forsake a virtuous course of life, at last made young Meguire abate of his diligence and industry, and bestow upon his amours and parties of pleasure with his mistresses, that time which would have been so much more profitably employed in his business. Having had several Intrigues which had considerably drained his purse, he began to reflect seriously, and formed a resolution to pursue less expensive Pleasures for the future, and to gratify his passions at a cheaper rate. In consequence of this resolution he soon after got acquainted with a servant-maid of Mr. V—y, a gentleman of a considerable estate, near Dublin. This girl was left together with an elderly man-servant to take care of a house of Mr. V—y's at Chapel-Izod, whilst he resided in Dublin; which was generally the greatest part of the year. At this house young Meguire had frequent interviews with his mistress, who always took care to inform him by a note whenever John, for that was the Servant's name, went to town as he generally did three times a week. Meguire was highly pleased with his paramour, for though a waiting maid, she in charms surpass'd many ladies, whose beauty had raised them to the eminent rank of toasts. Meguire generally went to his fair-one in the evening

ing and seldom left her till it was dark, and as the Irish are a very prying, inquisitive people, and let none of the actions of their neighbours pass unobserved, particular notice was taken of these visits by many, and from a natural turn to scandal, concluded, they met together in that manner, to enjoy the pleasures of love, without interruption; when all on a sudden, his mistress, whose Family lived at Bristol, in which city she herself was born, received a letter from her parents, pressing her speedy return, as they had a prospect of settling her advantageously in the world. The girl, however reluctant, was oblig'd to leave her lover and the kingdom, and and Meguire to look out for another mistress in order to console him for the loss of Mrs. Susan Just. About this time some rogues got into the house of Mr. V—y, at Chapel-Izod, by a window, which the servant being very much in liquor, had neglected to shut, and robbed it of several things of value. Mr. V—y soon after coming to his country seat to pass a month or two there, missed these things, which put him into a great passion. He tax'd the servant in a very furious manner, and the latter who had been drunk on the night that the robbery was committed, answered in so hesitating a manner, that Mr. V—y threatening to have him taken up upon suspicion. A gentleman who lived at the next door, hearing of this robbery immediately went to Mr. V—y and informed him that he had frequently seen Meguire enter the house about dusk, and added that he had no doubt, but the robbery was committed by him, in concert with the Girl who was just gone off. The servant, in order to remove the suspicion from him-

self, declared that he missed the goods the very night after she was gone off, and Meguire had discontinued his visits, and that he did not doubt, but Meguire and she had committed the robbery between them. Mr. V—y who thought this highly probable, immediately formed a design to have Meguire taken up upon suspicion, and that very evening put it in Execution. Meguire who never so much as dreamt of his being suspected of a robbery, was every much surpris'd to find himself taken up and carried before a justice of peace, and still more, that Mr. V—y's Servant should with confidence, charge him with a robbery, which he till then had never heard off. As he was well aware that the circumstance of the robbery's being committed just at the same time that he discontinued his visits, at Chapel-izod, and that Susan going to England, made strongly against him, he discovered his commerce with that girl, and declared that he went to the house of Mr. V—y's, at Chapel-izod, only upon her account. With regard to the robbery he solemnly protested that he knew nothing about it, and had never so much as heard of it before. Notwithstanding the clamorous manner, in which Mr. V—y, and the servant insisted upon Meguire's guilt, the justice of peace was somewhat stagger'd by the confidence with which the latter maintained his innocence, so that he was inclined to think he was not guilty of the crime laid to his charge: he told him, however, that so many probable circumstances had been alledged against him, that he could not avoid committing him, except he could procure a thousand pound Bail for his appearance in court, in order



to take his trial the ensuing commission of Oyer and Terminer. Meguire not being able to procure such bail, was committed to New-gate, a counsellor whom he sent for upon hearing his case assured him, that he was in no danger, for there was no positive evidence against him and he could never be convicted of robbery upon circumstances. He at the same time advised him to write to the girl, for whose company he went so often to the house of Mr. V——y, and endeavour to procure from her an acknowledgment of their intimacy, as such a letter produced at his trial would greatly corroborate his declaration before the justice of peace, and totally overthrow the evidence brought against him. Meguire followed this advice, but to his great surprise never received any answer to the letter he wrote. The reason of this was that Susan soon after her arrival at Bristol, was married to a creditable tradesman. She therefore burned the letter immediately after she had read it, lest it should some time or other rise up in judgment against her: unmoved by the dangerous intreaties of her former lover, and the danger he assured her he was in, for some women are soon cured of a passion by absence, and a lover is no sooner out of sight, but he is out of mind. Thus was Meguire deprived of one strong proof of his innocence, there was however so little evidence against him, that he would certainly have been acquitted, had not rancour and malice attacked his life by perjury, which innocence itself is no refuge, as has been observed before. Meguire sometimes went to see an acquaintance of his, one Memanus, who lived at Chapel-izod and adjourned in the ale-

house after his visit to his mistress was over. Happening to have some words one evening over a bowl of Punch, Memanus challenged Meguire to box, they accordingly went into the yard, and the latter beat the former so severely, that he being of a dark and vindictive disposition secretly formed a resolution to take the first opportunity of wreaking his vengeance upon Meguire. No sooner did he hear that Meguire had been committed to prison upon suspicion of robbing the house of Mr. V——y, but he formed the black design of swearing away his life, as he had been a prey to shame and indignation ever since the beating above-mentioned, which he owed entirely to his cowardice. Cowards are always base-minded and revengeful, and will seldom stick at any villainy to hurt those they have a spite to. Thus it happened upon the present occasion. Nothing less than the life of Meguire could satisfy the rancorous malice of Memanus: he accordingly went to Mr. V——y, who was very earnest in his prosecution of the unhappy young man, and told him that he often had seen Meguire late in the evening carry goods out of his house, and that he had assured him, that they were goods, that he was employed to mend, this as Memanus said, lulled his suspicions asleep for that time, as he knew that Meguire was by trade a Cabinet-maker. Mr. V——y who seemed to be bent upon the destruction of Meguire, caus'd Memanus to make a declaration to this effect before a justice of peace, and to bind himself in a recognizance to appear against that unhappy man at the ensuing commission of Oyer and Terminer. It is not easy to account for Mr. V——y's virulent prosecution

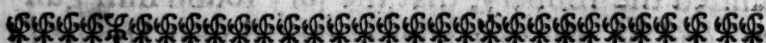
secution of Meguire otherwise than by that obstinacy which makes some men persist in an opinion they have once conceived, and think themselves as it were bound in honor to support it. At the next commission of Oyer and Terminer, Meguire was brought to his trial, and the positive oath amounted to so strong a Proof of his having committed the robbery, that the jury found him guilty, and he was soon after executed near Stephen's Green, though many persons of quality had applied to the lord's justices in his favour.

A few months afterwards his innocence came to be universally known, for Memanus was seiz'd with a violent fever, and when given over by his physician, sent for his confessor, being of the Roman catholic communion, and amongst other sins which then lay heavy upon his conscience, made a full confession of the perjury, by which he had brought Meguire to an untimely end, desiring it should be made public after his death. Memanus dying a few days after; the confessor made a full discovery of the perjury as he had been directed, and the public in general was convinced thereby that Meguire had suffered unjustly. If there remained any doubt of his guilt after this discovery, it was entirely removed at the next commission of oyer and terminer, when one Thomas Lawler, having receiv'd sentence of death for a robbery committed near Dublin, before his execution, he confessed several other robberies and amongst others owned himself to have been concerned with two other persons, who had lately left the kingdom in robbing the house of Mr. V—y, at Chapel-Izod.

Thus was the innocence of Meguire at last fully



fully proved and his unhappy fate was lamented even by those who had been most prejudiced against him before. The melancholy catastrophe of this unhappy young man, would be a warning to youth to shun a life of debauchery, as his indulging a criminal amour, was the occasion of his coming to an untimely end.



Authentic narrative of the circumstances attending the trial and evidences produced for and against Richard Coleman, who suffer'd innocently, an ignominious and untimely death, April the 10th, 1749. on an indictment for the murder of Sarah Green, Widow, July the 23d, 1748.

**T**HE present instance, together with many others, serves to shew, to what degrees of injustice mankind may be brought by malice or by ignorance; also that the guilty seldom go unconvicted and unpunished, even in this life; Providence generally brings the blackest schemes to light by means best known to unerring wisdom. The unhappy culprit Richard Coleman was arraigned at the bar of the assizes, held at Kingston, Upon-Thames, for the county of Surry, March the 20th, 1748,9, and indicted, "For that he on the 23d of July 1748, (together with two other to the Juries unknown) on Sarah Green, Widow did make an assault, and the private

private parts of the said Sarah did mortally wound by which said violence she languished from the said 23d day of July do the 13th of September following in the Parish of St. Thomas in Southwark and died: so that the juries appointed to inspect into such cases declare upon oath in consequence of the attestations of others, that the prisoner, there arraigned, in manner aforesaid, the said Sarah Green, did kill and murder, against the king's peace, his crown and dignity, and the forms of the statute in that case made and provided. He was a second time indicted on the coroner's inquest for feloniously murdering the said Sarah. To both these indictments Mr. Coleman with great calmness and composure, pleaded, Not guilty, and for his trial put himself upon God and his country.

Now if the reader minutely attends to some necessary abstracts of the depositions of the evidences both for and against this unhappy man, as well as the consequences attending the same, and compares the whole with his last and solemn declaration; they will afford some Entertainment and much instruction and shew the manifest disadvantages resulting from ill formed connections with persons of slight character, as well as point out the necessity of conscientious caution in giving award, where life and death are concerned. To place the case in the plainest and most obvious points of view, it will be necessary, to observe the circumstance which caused Mr. Coleman to be apprehended, as it may guard many persons from falling into these snares to which excess of liquor and bad company inevitably expose them.

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The case as taken from his own solemn declaration delivered to the clergyman, who attended him to the place of execution was as follows : On monday, the 25th of July, Coleman had heard that a woman had been cruelly treated by three or four men ; but nobody was taken up for it till a quarrel happened between him and one Tr——n at the Queen's-arm's Alehouse, in Bardsley-leg-walk. On the 17th of August, 1748, about ten o'clock in the evening, Messrs. T——n and Coleman, went to that house, (the latter being much in liquor) and having called for some rumbo ; while Coleman was stirring it with a spoon, a person present, an entire stranger to him, asked him, what he had done with the Pig, (alluding to a pig that had been stolen from a neighbour) Coleman replied, D——n the pig, what is it to me ? Much abuse ensued on both sides, till in consequence of the same the other asked him, if he did not know Kennington-Lane. Coleman replied, yes I do, d——n you, what of that ? The other added, don't you know the woman, that was so cruelly treated, Coleman answered ; yes, I do, d——n you what of that ? The other proceeded, was not you one of the persons concerned in doing it ? Coleman, fatally replied, if I was you dog, what then ? and immediately threw the spoon at him.

After a very long dispute, Coleman and his friend departed, and the next morning the former happening to call at the same house, the landlord said to him, Mr. Coleman, you was very silly last night. On Coleman's enquiry concerning his behaviour ; the landlord repeated the discourse that had passed, and told him that he



he did not consider what advantages bad people might make of such expressions : he replied he was much in liquor, and did not remember what he had said. On the 29th of August, Coleman was charged on the oath of T——n and a woman, before a neighbouring justice on a suspicion of committing that violence on Sarah Green, and was taken before her in the hospital, to find whether she knew any thing of him. When he came, a person present laid his hand on him, and asked her, if he was one of the men ? She replied, I believe he is one. Coleman then warned her to beware what she said, as his life was at stake, and demanded if she would swear he was one of the persons. She refused swearing, but said if he was one of them, they walked a good way together, talked of indifferent things, and he behaved like a gentleman ; but that when she was assaulted, he ran away, which was not behaving like a man.

He was then taken before the same justice again, who finding no substantial charge against him would have discharged him ; but Sarah Green's master desirous that he should go before the injured woman once more, the justices took his word for his appearance. Accordingly at the appointed time, Coleman appeared, and the landlord of the King's-Head, in Newington-Lane, his maid, and a gardener in the neighbourhood, declared on their oaths, that they did not believe, he was one of them who were at the King's-head the night that Sarah Green received the injury. After his examination, the justice's clerk, with three others, went to the hospital, but finding the woman much in-

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disposed ;

disposed ; appointment was made that the justice himself should meet the parties next morning at the hospital. When they met, his worship asked the woman, if she could swear that Mr. Coleman aided and assisted in the assault, she answered, " No, I cannot for it was dark." Coleman was then called in, and Sarah Green declared upon oath ; " That on the 23d of July 1748, between the hours of eleven and twelve o'clock at night, as she was going thro' Newington church-yard to her lodging, in Bandy-leg-walk, she was assaulted and cruelly beaten by two men to her unknown, and that R. Coleman was present in her company, the time she was assaulted and cruelly treated. In consequence of this information, the justice took his own word for his appearance, and gave him till next day to bring his sureties : he came accordingly and entered in recognizance to appear at the general quarter sessions to answer Sarah Green for an assault. About the 19th of September the poor woman died in the hospital, and the coroner's inquest brought in their verdict, wilful murder against Richard Coleman, and persons unknown, pursuant to which, a warrant was granted for apprehending the former. To avoid the calamities of a prison, Coleman absconded himself, though fully determined to surrender at the assizes, as a proof, which we refer to the following advertisement intended to have been inserted in the public papers. " I Richard Coleman, seeing myself advertised in the Gazette as absconding on account of the murder of Sarah Green, knowing myself not any ways culpable, do assert that I have not absconded from

Justice

justice, but will willingly and readily appear at the assizes, knowing my innocence will acquit me." On the 22d of November he was taken at dinner in the county of Middlesex, and committed to the New Goal, Southwark, whence he was removed to Kingston to take his trial; the event of which was as follows. The indictment (of which we have given, the particulars) being read, the council for the crown called their witnesses.

George Howard, Landlord of the King's-head in Kennington Lane, deposed; that the deceased was there on the 23d of July, went away and returned late at night; that there were three men in the house dressed like Brewer's servants, but he could not aver the prisoner was one, thinking that they were all taller than him, that they went out of his house about eleven o'clock.

Robert Lingard, and deposed, that on the same night about eleven o'clock, he saw the prisoner pass his door at Newington, in company with a woman; and heard the prisoner talk with her; that he knew the prisoner because he used to come (being a brewer's clerk) to Newington, to customers that dealt with his master, and that it was light enough to discover his face; but that as to the assault or murder, he could give no account of it.——Ann Connor, who lodged in the same house with the deceased deposed, that she came home about two in the morning, in a most dismal condition and informed her that she had been used in a most barbarous manner by three men in the Parsonage Walk, near Newington-Church; that in about twelve days, she was carried to the hospital, and that she declared,

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that



that the clerk, who belonged to Mr. Taylor's (since Berry's) brew-house, was one of the men, who had used her so ill; that she had often seen him, but did not know his name, though she well knew his face.—Ann Berry, washerwoman; who used to wash for the deceased, deposed, that seeing by her linnen, she was in a bad way, she inquired of her concerning her disorder, and was told to the same effect with the former.—Several nurses, attendants and others deposed that her private parts were most terribly lacerated, which added to the depositions of the person, who attended and dressed, rendered it evident that the injury she had sustained was the cause of her death.—To confirm the charge against Coleman, Daniel Trotman, deposed; that being at a public house, in Bandy-leg-walk, and seeing the prisoner there, he asked him if he had been in Sarah Green's company the night she was treated so cruelly, he replied yes, he was, and what then? he asked him if he was one of the men, who did it, he said, I was, and what then, that then he threw a silver spoon in his face, which he returned; upon which the landlord bid him answer no questions, for they were very ensnaring. That he was not in liquor as he could observe, but appeared very sober, and very capable of giving proper answers.—The evidence for the crown being finished, the prisoner alledged in his defence, that he was at the Brew-house, backwards and forwards all the day, on the 23<sup>d</sup> of July, till five in the evening, when he went with his master to Lambeth Marsh to a publick house, when he returned, about seven, and went to Mr. Sibley's, at the Prince and Princess, in  
Gravel

Gravel-lane, where he remained drinking punch till about ten o'clock, that from thence he went to his mother's-in-law, the Brown Bear, in Queen-street, in the park, where he supped with his wife, and Mrs. Alexander, and tarried till about two in the morning, and then went home, concluding that he knew nothing of the affair, and did not doubt but to prove his innocence. In proof of this declaration, Sibley the Alehouse-keeper, Joice Barrett the prisoner's wife's mother, and Sarah Alexander respectively and separately deposited exactly agreeable to his account with respect to time and place.——Coleman's council then called Matthew Turner, who deposed that he heard what passed at the public house, between Trotman and the prisoner, but believed he was much in liquor, and afterwards denied what he said; but Trotman and Newberry being called into court, declared that he was sober and that he never denied it. In the course of the depositions, in behalf of the prisoner, Mrs. Alexander not rendering so satisfactory an account of herself as might have been expected from an evidence in a court of judicature; and Mrs. Barrett not being of extraordinary character as well as allied to the prisoner, the council for the crown observed to the Jury, that if they believed what Mr. Barratt and Alexander had sworn, all the other witnesses must be perjured, and desired they would consider, the slight account Mrs. Alexander had given of herself, and whether she was a person of such reputation as to be believed. The jury therefore without going from the bar, in about two minutes found the prisoner guilty of wilful murder. Death.

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Accordingly the fatal sentence was executed, on the tenth of April, 1749, when the unfortunate Coleman fell a victim partly to his own want of sobriety and discretion, and partly to what, (though not convenient for us to mention) will appear to the impartial reader on a candid review of this state of the case.—Every circumstance with respect to time and place deposed by Sibley, Barrett and Alexander in his behalf is minutely confirmed by his last and solemn declaration, which gives a most precise account of the manner in which he spent the 23d of June from one o'clock in the afternoon, till two in the morning of the 24th, on consciousness of which he rested the event, notwithstanding by his ungarded expressions, he had undoubtedly given just ground for suspicion. This extraordinary event slept in the womb of time near two years, when it was at length brought to light in a manner not a little extraordinary. Welsh, one of the accomplices in the horrid fact, happened to walk with one James Bush, a young man of his acquaintance to Kennington, and the discourse turning upon people that were hanged wrongfully; Welsh said, that he was sure Coleman was hanged wrongfully, for Tom Jones, Jemmy Nichols and himself did the fact, for which he suffered; that the flap of his shirt was bloody, and he was forced to wash it himself to prevent his mothers finding it out.

This circumstance long dwelt upon the conscience of Bush, till at length he disclosed it to his father, who went immediately with him to St. Margaret's-Hill, where Jones plied as porter, informed him he heard an ill character of him, and in-



informed him of all his son had told him, Upon this Jones replied, " D—mn it, it don't signify now, they cannot hurt us, the woman is dead and the man hanged for it. He then desired them not to speak of it, but they complied not with the villian's request ; for giving proper information, he was apprehended together with Welsh, and brought to a trial, Nichols being admitted as evidence.

The indictment being laid as to the former case, James Bush and his father deposed to the same effect as hath been related, but James Nichols very fully, viz. that on that same day of July, he and the two prisoners were drinking at Sot's Hole, from six till near ten in the evening ; that coming along Kennington-lane, he being foremost, overtook the said Green, and knowing her before, asked her to drink, to which she consenting, they went to the King's head and called for some beer, that the prisoner came in afterwards and had a quartern of gin, that the prisoners went away first, and that the deceased went with him holding his arm ; that when they came to Newington Churchyard, in the Parson's Walk the prisoners came up to them and forced the deceased from him ; telling him that he had been concerned with her, and d—n their eyes, they would ; that he went from them about twenty or thirty yards, when Welsh put his hand up her petticoats, and she screamed out for mercy, that he saw his hand bloody to the wrist-band of his shirt ; that he afterward saw them both lay down to her, which having done, they said to him, " Now d—n your eyes, you may be concerned with her, but we have spoiled her for

for you. He then parted from them, and went home to bed and knew no more of the matter, being asked by the court, if he had heard of one Coleman being tried and executed for the fact, he replied, yes; but Mr. Coleman was innocent. Being then asked, why he did not discover it time enough to save Coleman's life, he said, that the prisoners were his school-fellows, and threatened to stab him if he spoke of it to any body, and they had not discovered it then, if they had not been taken up. These material depositions, confirmed by divers circumstantial ones proved the guilt of the prisoners, who alledging nothing in their own defence, nor proposed any question of importance to the witnesses, the jury found them both guilty, Death. They were justly executed for that which unjustly exposed the unfortunate Coleman to shame, but afterwards excited for his memory the general pity.

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Narrative of the trepanning, apprehending, and trial of Joshua Kidden, who suffered innocently through the vile plot, and notorious perjury of a set of miscreants, who had long lived on the wages of blood.

**T**HIS unfortunate victim to more than hellish perfidy, was designed by his parents, for the reputable profession of an Apothecary, and received an education suitable to the same; but being of a fickle and roving disposition, soon grew weary of that attention which his business required, and at his own request, entered upon a sea-faring life, in which he continued about seven years. On his return home, his indulgent parents in order to qualify him for some advanced station in the naval service, put him to the study of navigation, which from an indolence of constitution, that seems to have been

been the primary cause of all his woes, he utterly neglected, and afterwards deserting his parents, devoted himself to idle and dissolute company. This sordid behaviour incurring the displeasure of his friends, and depriving him of all his hopes of any future succour from them, in order to avoid the infamy of theft, and the pain of hunger, he took up the employment of a porter, and lived in that capacity some time.

In the course of his business, as a porter, he sometimes used a public-house, in Chick-lane, that was frequented by some of those villains, who lay wait for human blood.

At this place he became acquainted with one Blee, an infamous accomplice with thief-takers, in their vile Practices of decoying the unwary into robberies, and swearing against them for the sake of the reward. The designing villain having often heard the unsuspecting Kidden complain of his poverty, and express his great desire of procuring employment, appears to have conceived the damnable design, which he afterwards inhumanly put into execution ; for immediately on his representing the state of his case ; he told him he would give him a day's work, and in the mean time provide him a lodging, which being one of the alleys, notorious for being infested with thieves, he knew would make against him upon trial.

This passed on the Friday night, between which and the Monday following, the whole scheme was concerted among the base perpetrators of the horrid deed.

Every thing being settled, Blee on Monday morning, being the seventh of January 1754, call upon Kidden, to go upon a job, at Tottenham, which was, as he pretended, to remove the goods of a gentlemen to prevent a seizure for rent.

Accordingly they went together ; and passed the day in going from alehouse to alehouse : till evening coming on, Blee who pretended to seek the person, after some stay returned, and informed him, that it was too late to remove that night and therefore they must attend another day, but that he had sent him eighteen pence for his trouble.

On their return home they came up with a chaise with a man and woman in it, at a place called the Seven Sisters, at this side Tottenham, where the woman was set down, and walked, upon which Kidden, as he passed, enquired if she was going to London ? She replied in the affirmative, and Kidden walked on, it being then about seven o'clock in the evening.



As he walked briskly, his companion Blee, (whose name was then unknown to him) called out, What do you walk so fast for? he answered to get to London, and turning about saw him robbing the Woman. He then ran after him, and said, Here I have got some money, and would have forced half a Crown into his hand, but he refused it.

The artful Villain finding this scheme ineffectual, in order to secure his prize, told him he must step into an adjacent ditch to ease himself, and desired he would not leave him; so that poor Kidden walking gently on to wait for his treacherous companion, a man, came up, and seizing him by the collar, said, You are my Prisoner: and in the mean time Blee made off. He was immediately conducted to a justice, before whom the woman swore, that he with a person unknown, robbed her of twenty five shillings and sixpence, so that he was committed to Goal in order to take his trial, the particulars of which are as follow.

Joshua Kidden, was indicted for robbing Mary Jones, Widow, on the highway of one Guinea, and 4s. 6d. January 7th 1754, and convicted on the depositions of Mary Jones, and John Berry. The former of these deposed, that on the day of the pretended robbery, she desired Mr. Berry to accompany her to Edmonton, in search of a man, who owed her some money, and on his compliance they went in a Chaise, two fellows came up, and said, "You shall not get in, we must have your money," upon which one of them taking a great knife out of his pocket held her arms, swearing that he would stick her, and the fellow in the chaise too, if she spoke a word; while the other took her pocket, in which were a guinea, a half crown, two shillings, and a trifle more. She swore peremptorily that the prisoner (Kidden) was the man, that held the knife to her, and said, "You old bitch, if you say a word, I'll run you through and the man too."

John Berry confirmed the deposition of his infamous accomplice, and added moreover, that he saw them put a hand to her pocket, and that he knew she had the money about her, when they came out of the house.

That he drove along enquiring of every body, and particularly the patrol if they saw such persons, and about twenty yards distant he saw them running, when the other man getting over a ditch made his escape, and the prisoner was taken. That on enquiry wherefore he took the money from the woman; he denied the fact, but confessed that he stood by

by, on which being taken before justice Withers, he said his name was Joshua Kidden, and that he lived in Black-boy-alley.

On cross-examination, being asked the man's name, who took the prisoner; he affirmed that it was the officer, who went with them to take the man at Edmonton, that he was a Marshalsea court officer, by name Mackdonald.

When questioned, if he knew the prisoner; he replied he had seen him a year or two ago about the New-market he believed, but was not positive.

Divers persons of credit appeared for the character of Kidden, but as the circumstances seemed so clear, the verdict was brought in Guilty. Death.

When the friends of the unfortunate Kidden, were acquainted with the Dilemma, into which he was plunged, they went to him, and received the account as we have related in the beginning of this narrative; and encouraged by which, they enquired farther into the matter, but could not find out the Prosecutrix, (who upon trial had deposed that she lived in Broker's Alley, Drury-Lane,) after the most diligent search.

At length however though they could not find her, they received such a report of her character as induced them to believe the young fellow's account to be true, and therefore to use endeavours to save his life; but these proved ineffectual, through want of that knowledge of the matter they obtained too late. Kidden at Tyburn, in the most solemn manner, declared his innocence to the last moment, and expired with composure and resignation.

This infamous affair was detected by Blee's turning evidence, and bringing the thief-takers to justice, and with them Mary Jones, who was an accomplice.

Intelligence having been given, that Mary Jones had secreted herself at a certain house, at Twickenham, she was there apprehended on Sunday, February 1, by the high constable of the Eastern division, who having obtained a warrant from justice Spurling went thither with one Paterson and Tom Blee; where Blee happening to see her walk in a gentleman's garden at some distance, she made her escape into the next yard, and from thence into a cellar, in which she was taken. When confronted with Blee, she declared she had no knowledge of him; notwithstanding which, they conducted her up to London, and carried her before justice Spurling.

Upon

Upon examination, she peremptorily denied knowing Blee who was present, or Macdonald, or Berry, or any thing concerning Kidden; but Blee swearing positively to her, she was that day, February 2. committed to Newgate for the wilful murder of Joshua Kidden; the commitment charging that she, together with Stephen Macdonald, and John Berry, caused the said Joshua Kidden to be apprehended, and by perjury to be prosecuted for, and convicted of a robbery, pretended to have been committed by him, the said Kidden, on her the said Mary Jones, for which he was unjustly executed.

A bill of indictment was found at Hick's Hall against those miscreants for the wilful murder of Joshua Kidden; and the same day another Indictment was found by the same grand Jury charging them all with a conspiracy against the life of Kidden.

April 30th another bill of Indictment was found by the grand jury of London against John Berry and Mary Jones for wilful and corrupt perjury on the trial of the said Kidden, (Macdonald not being upon the trial) at the Sessions house at the Old Bailey, where he was unjustly convicted upon their false and corrupt Evidence.

The following day the three prisoners were arraigned at the Old Bailey; but their trials were put off till the next Sessions; and Mary Jones, having continued a Prisoner, till that time, and no prosecutor appearing, she was, on her petition, discharged upon Bail.

But notwithstanding they escaped that prosecution, the infamous miscreants, Macdonald and Berry ever thirsting after human blood; in less than a year after the execution of the innocent Kidden, returned to the same infamous practice, and were tried and cast, for another conspiracy of the like kind, together with Egan and Salmon, the former of whom was struck dead on the pillow, and the latter survived the execution of his sentence but a few days.

Their villainous accomplices were also severely handled by the populace, and then remanded back to Newgate, where one of them died since, and the other still remains in confinement.

F I N I S.





